

NRP/EXCOM



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DuBridge to John Foster, DDR&E (letter dated 31 Oct 1969)

He learned that Foster was organizing a panel under ~~xxx~~ Fubini to look into technologies associated with satellite readout systems.

This situation raises a broader issue of how we should provide outside technical advice to the EXCOM on NRO matters. The Land Panel was, of course, organized specifically for this purpose in 1965 by the Science Adviser when the EXCOM was established and has functioned in that capacity since then. In view of the interagency interest in these programs, this still seems to be the most appropriate way to provide this support and I think it would be unwise for EXCOM to allow the activation of ad hoc advisory groups duplicating this activity without its express approval. Since it is only natural that, on particularly important or controversial issues, each of the participating organizations might like to sponsor advisory groups of its own, one can imagine situations where three or four separate panels might be reviewing the same problem. I think that this wld be more likely to confuse than to clarify an issue and that a single representative panel can be far more effective and useful to the Committee.

For the Land Panel to fill this role it is essential that you, McLucas and the EXCOM members feel comfortable that the Panel has the breadth of view to cover all the interests in whatever problem is at hand. To this end, I and Dr. Land will welcome suggestions about addtl consultants or members that might be added to accomplish this purpose--invite staff members of all interested parties to our meetings, seek their views on issues under consideration and addtl lines of investigation.

No question the EXCOM would profit by all technical assistance it can get but we should try to make advice as coherent as possible

I think this can best be done by relying on the Land Panel supplemented when necessary by addtl people to meet particular program needs.

NRO review(s) completed.